

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH REQUEST FOR BENEFICIARY STATUS UNDER

U.S. GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP)

1. MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY GENERAL SUKRU ELEKDAG
JANUARY 24 ASKED AMBASSADOR TO TRANSMIT TO DEPARTMENT GOT
REQUEST FOR BENEFICIARY STATUS UNDER U.S. GSP. REQUEST WAS
SUPPORTED BY AIDE-MEMOIRE TEXT OF WHICH IS FORWARDED BY
ANKARA A-13.

2. ELEKDAG SAID APPLICATION FOR BENEFICIARY STATUS WAS BEING
MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF TITLE V OF U.S. TRADE
ACT OF 1974 IN WHICH SECTION 502(C) PROVIDES THAT, WHEN DESIG-
NATING BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES, THE PRESIDENT SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT
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INTER ALIA "AN EXPRESSION BY SUCH COUNTRY OF ITS DESIRE TO BE SO

DESIGNATED" AND EXTENT TO WHICH SUCH COUNTRY HAS ASSURED THE U.S. IT WILL PROVIDE EQUITABLE AND REASONABLE ACCESS TO THE MARKETS AND BASIC COMMODITY RESOURCES OF SUCH COUNTRY." ELEKDAG ASSURED AMBASSADOR THAT GOT HAS IN THE PAST AND WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE TO PROVIDE U.S. WITH ACCESS TO MARKETS AND BASIC COMMODITY RESOURCES OF TURKEY ON NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS. HE SAID THIS HAS BEEN EVIDENCED BY STRONG GROWTH OF U.S. TRADE WITH TURKEY IN RECENT YEARS. (EMBASSY NOTE: U.S. EXPORTS TO TURKEY DURING 1974 INCREASED IN VALUE BY OVER 70 PERCENT WHICH WAS IN LINE WITH INCREASE IN TURKEY'S TOTAL IMPORTS.)

3. AIDE-MEMOIRE DEALS WITH SEVERAL PROVISIONS OF SECTION 502 OF TRADE ACT, WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE VARIOUS GROUPS OF COUNTRIES FROM BENEFICIARY STATUS, AND PRESENTS ARGUMENTS THAT THESE EXCLUDING PROVISIONS ARE NOT APPLICABLE TO TURKEY.

(A) AIDE-MEMOIRE ASSERTS THAT SECTION 502(B) PROVISIONS ON REVERSE PREFERENCES ARE NOT APPLICABLE TO TURKEY'S ASSOCIATION WITH EEC. THIS ARRANGEMENT, IT IS ARGUED AT LENGTH, HAS BEEN APPROVED IN GATT AND IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE 24 OF GATT WHICH RECOGNIZES THAT PURPOSE OF A CUSTOMS UNION OR A FREE TRADE AREA SHOULD BE TO FACILITATE TRADE. REFERENCE ALSO MADE TO BALANCE OF TRADE BETWEEN TURKEY AND U.S. (I.E., FAVORABLE TO U.S.) SINCE SIGNATURE OF GOT-EEC PROTOCOLS WHICH "WILL CLEARLY INDICATE THAT NO DISCRIMINATORY ACTION AGAINST THE U.S. COMMERCE HAS TAKEN PLACE."

(B) PROVISIONS OF SECTION 502 (5) OF TRADE ACT (NARCOTICS DRUGS) ALSO NOT APPLICABLE TO TURKEY. AIDE-MEMOIRE ASSERTS THAT "IN ADDITION TO CLOSE COOPERATION WITH U.N. COMMISSION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS, ALL STEPS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN AND WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE SAME COOPERATIVE SPIRIT."

4. ELEKDAG TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT EXTENSION OF U.S. GSP TO TURKEY WOULD BE FURTHER EVIDENCE OF STRONG AND CLOSE FRIENDSHIP BINDING OUR TWO COUNTRIES AS SHOWN BY OUR PARTNERSHIP IN DEFENSE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. TURKEY GREATLY APPRECIATED U.S. UNILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WHICH HAD CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO TURKEY'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. EVEN THOUGH U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN MUCH REDUCED BECAUSE OF TURKEY'S PROGRESS, EXTENSION OF U.S. GSP TO TURKEY WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO CONTINUATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS SAME ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

5. REFERENCE ALSO MADE BY ELEKDAG TO DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS REGARDING FUTURE OF ATLANTIC COMMUNITY. WITHIN THE EC-NINE SOME GROUPS WISH TO PLACE GREATEST EMPHASIS ON EUROPE AS A DISTINCT ENTITY APART

FROM NATO, BUT TURKEY HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED BROADER CONCEPT IN
BELIFT THERE IS LARGE COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS WITH U.S.
IF TURKEY SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM U.S. GSP, HE FEARED THIS
COULD FORCE TURKEY MORE IN DIRECTION OF THE EUROPEAN ALTERNATIVE.

6. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO FORWARD ELEKDAG'S
COMMENTS AND AIDE-MEMOIRE TO WASHINGTON. GOT ARGUMENTS
WERE WELL PRESENTED AND WELL UNDERSTOOD. HE BELIEVED THAT
STRONGEST ARGUMENT FOR INCLUSION OF GOT UNDER U.S. PREFERENCE
SYSTEM WAS IN THE TRADITIONAL TIES OF PARTNERSHIP IN DEFENSE AND
ECONOMIC MATTERS. ANY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY'S EFFORTS IN THESE
AREAS WAS CLEARLY IN THE INTEREST OF THE U.S. AND OF THE FREE
WORLD. AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE
REGARDING POSSIBLE APPLICATION TO ANY COUNTRY OF PROVISIONS
MENTIONED BY ELEKDAG. LANGUAGE OF LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE TO BE
STUDIED CAREFULLY IN WASHINGTON. AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO STATE-
MENT OF JANUARY 3 BY PRESIDENT FORD AT SIGNING OF TRADE ACT
REGARDING COMPLEXITIES AND DIFFICULTIES PRESENTED BY SOME OF
PROVISIONS OF ACT. ALSO, EMPHASIZED INTENTION OF ADMINISTRATION
TO WORK IN COOPERATION WITH CONGRESS FOR BROADEST PARTICIPATION
IN SCHEME OF PREFERENCES.

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